

**Allen Dyer,**  
**Candidate for Board of Education for Howard County**  
**Response to a Question from *The Baltimore Sun***

*In order to put an information box together, the Baltimore Sun is asking that each candidate complete the following information:*

*Name:* Allen Dyer     *Age:* 59

*Occupation:* Computer Consultant, Lawyer & Journeyman Blacksmith

*Question (150 words or less) —*

*Howard County is known for its top performing school system and innovated programs. But, like every school system, there are still areas in need of improvement. In your opinion, what is the greatest need facing the school system?*

More needs to be done to close the achievement gap. Specifically, skills training must return to our local schools and extra resources must be targeted to students most in need.

During the development of the staff and programs that allow our students to pursue academic success, skills training programs atrophied and all but disappeared. As a result, students that had relied on skills training for motivation lost interest in purely academic course work. Returning skills training to local schools would bolster the confidence of all students in their abilities to build and shape the world around them.

Academic success, however, also depends on what our students do after the end of the regular school day. Targeting extra resources such as places to study, laptop computers, broadband Internet access and teacher advice after regular school hours will provide students most in need with better opportunities to close the achievement gap.

Allen Dyer, Board of Education Candidate